

Message Text

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POUCHED TO ALL CONSULS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MARR, CA

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER RICHARDSON DEFENDS TRIDENT BASE

1. OTTAWA JOURNAL ON MARCH 1 PUBLISHED BRIEF REPORT OF STATEMENT MADE BY CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES RICHARDSON IN VANCOUVER WHICH INDDICATED GOC WILL MAKE NO RPT NO PROTEST TO US OVER LOCATION OF TRIDENT NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASE AT BANGOR, WASHINGTON.

2. ARTICLE QUOTES RICHARDSON AS SAYING, "I BELIVE A STRONG TRIDENT CAPABILITY IS A DETERENT TO WAR. THEREFORE, THE BUILDING OF THE BASE, WHEREVER IT IS BUILT, HELPS DETER WAR." THE MINISTER SAID TO OPPONENTS OF THE BASE THAT "...I HAVE COME UP AGAINST THE REALITY OF SOVIET DECEPTION. THEY PROFESS PEACE AS YOU DO, BUT THEY KEEP ON BUILDING AND BUILDING AND BUILDING. THE FACT IS THAT THEY ARE AHEAD OF US IN PRACTICALLY EVERY AREA THERE IS." HE CLARIFIED THIS BY SAYING THAT THE US WAS STILL AHEAD IN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY BUT THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WERE BUILDING FAR MORE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY THAN NECESSARY FOR DEFENSE.

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EM COMMENT: THE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS SHOULD PROVE
VERY HELPFUL AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE GOC'S VIEW SINCE
OPPONENTS IN CANADA TO THE TRIDENT BASE REMAIN VOCIFEROUS
AND ENERGETIC.
ENDERS

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